

Fair and cooler to-day; to-morrow, probably fair.

NO. 1680.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1911.—TWELVE PAGES.

LARGEST MORNING CIRCULATION.

ONE CENT.

## CITIZENS PLAN TO HAUL THEIR OWN GOODS

Express Rates' Fight Is on with Vigor.

### SIGNERS OF PETITION

Columbia Heights Will Have Special Meeting.

Unless Redress from Exorbitant Charges Is Had, Merchants Threaten to Put Teams on Route and Deliver Their Goods by a System of Their Own—Petitioners in Liberal Circulation in Fourteenth Street.

#### WHAT 50 MERCHANTS SAY.

We hereby petition the Columbia Heights Citizens Association to call a special meeting within thirty days to consider the just grievance against the arbitrary and unjust collection of extra and unfair charges on merchandise delivered north of Florida avenue, and that said association take proper steps to remedy this injurious discrimination, and, if necessary, lay the matter before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Extra express rates on free delivery goods in Fourteenth street north of Florida avenue are doomed to a short life, say the merchants, who are up in arms against what they call injurious discrimination, for if there is no legal redress against the condition that now prevails, these citizens say they will put teams on the route and deliver their own goods by a system of their own.

In this way, at least, they claim they will be able to establish a basis of cost that will have some element of fixed price about it, and each will be able to tell just what the delivery is going to cost him.

#### CITIZENS AROUSED.

During this week petitions have been freely circulated among the merchants in Upper Fourteenth street, and those that have had them in charge say the citizens there are fully aroused, and are the most determined class of people in the city just now.

The petitions bear the signatures of the most substantial and prominent business men in that section, and were signed most eagerly when presented. The signers all say they are determined not to stand the discrimination any longer, and will stand by the petition and its demands to the limit.

Judge Charles S. Bundy, president of the association, said a meeting will be called in compliance with the request of the members, and that the question will be taken up thoroughly in all of its bearings.

Warren A. Humphrey, of 2904 Fourteenth street, says before he went into business for himself on the hill he had long experience in the lower part of the city, where he had charge of the freight and shipping. He thought he was pretty well up on the ways and doings of express companies. But when he received his freight shipments at his own place of business, just north of Florida avenue, in what is commonly supposed to be a free freight delivery zone, and for delivering which the railway companies pay the express people, he found there was an extra tax imposed upon all his goods which downtown merchants do not have to pay.

"This tax for living just a little beyond an imaginary line, eats a big hole in our profits," said Mr. Humphrey. "Any one who knows anything about business competition to-day knows that profits at the best are small, and when these are eaten into by this charge it is no wonder a man gets sore. There is no justice in the charge, because if you measure the distance the company has to haul our freight and compare it with other long hauls that are made free to distant parts of the free zone you will see we have no right to be assessed an extra price. Further than that, none of us can tell what the charge is going to be on a fifty-pound package. One day it is one price and next day it is another."

"The yearly assessment that a merchant up here has to pay," said George C. Altman, "amounts to a lot in a year. Take a business such as mine, where we handle perishable goods, and have to have our shipments in small quantities and get them often, you would be surprised what those little items on my drayage bills amount to in the run of a month. It is not unusual to have deliveries of six and eight packages a day here at my store. I already have spent a good deal of money trying to get this thing straightened out, but am in the fight to stay this time, and am going to see it to a finish of some sort."

"If we have to put on a line of our own," said another enthusiastic supporter, "we will do it. Then we know what we are paying. But when we put into this fight on other occasions, and am willing to go in again and stay in until we get somewhere this time."

#### Among the Signers.

Among the signers of the petition are Warren A. Humphrey, E. A. Coleman, Charles Colvin and Company, W. E. Swan, Frank E. Altman, Fred Lindner, Carpenter and Dunlap, Thomas J. Boe-

## SUICIDE PACT PLANNED BY PSYCHIC STUDENTS

New York, May 12.—"Dr. Latson and I were going to commit suicide together, some day. We were simply waiting until the burden of life became unbearable. I expect to join my master and teacher as soon as an opportunity presents itself. I did not kill Dr. Latson."

This remarkable statement was made to-night by Alta Marheva, the young student of mystic psychology and pupil of Dr. W. R. C. Latson, editor of Health Culture, whose body, with a bullet hole through the brain, was found Thursday night in his luxurious apartments in Riverside Drive.

John D. Schamel, Philip Katz, L. Kahanor, T. Borsey, Edward J. Erwin, Louis Sider, Morris Blumenfeld, Louis Wachsmuth, George E. Altman, J. A. Phillips, J. H. Cohen, D. J. Weyman, B. M. Norris, W. C. Thompson, E. R. Gow, L. Fanberg, N. Ambrogio, C. F. Little, W. L. Gary, G. Sh. Williams, M. Warles, A. Shulman, C. E. Cassasa, W. L. Lagast & Co., Charles J. Galsberg, M. Leviton & Co., M. Herman, Mrs. R. C. Crow, William P. Luby, Edwin J. Troland, & Co., J. W. Ward, O. F. Knabe, E. C. Mattingly, L. Goldmann, H. H. Swan, Watson & Hollister, F. Riebring, Bush Plumbing Company, Charles Rupert, D. M. Mounford, and Robert Petzold.

## FEARING ATTACK, AMERICAN HOMES ARE BARRICADED

Arms and Food Stored by Foreigners for Siege.

### REBELS APPROACH CITY

Mexico City, May 12.—Actions of the government to-day indicate that fears of attack upon the City of Mexico from some source are imminent. At noon to-day the guard at Belam City prison was increased by 1,000 soldiers.

Four pieces of light artillery have been transferred from the arsenal to the national palace, where they are mounted so that they command all approaches to the palace, which is in the center of the city. All cannon in the arsenal have been brought outside.

It is feared the rebels will attack Cuernavaca and possibly Mexico City.

Should the city be attacked it is certain that a strong force of rebel sympathizers inside the city would rise against the authorities. It is estimated that 50 per cent of the citizens are Maderistas.

The American colony in Mexico City is extremely wrought up over the danger of mob attacks which may result if the government loses control or in case an attack is made upon the city. More than 25 per cent of the women and children of American families in Mexico have been sent to the United States within the past sixty days. Others are leaving this week. It is known that the American Ambassador considers the situation extremely serious.

The proposed plan of the foreign residents is that several military companies be raised and drilled by each foreign colony, and the armed and ready to resist the authorities to keep order.

The government offered to supply the arms and the officers to drill the companies. Practically all the Americans here who thought they could not have a good stock of arms and ammunition in their houses and have laid in supplies of food to last several weeks.

Fourteen of the principal business houses of the city, which, fearing attacks from mobs, asked for arms. It is estimated that more than 2,000 guns and a corresponding amount of ammunition have been distributed.

## CABINET ALLOWS ARMS SHIPMENT

Rebels May Receive Guns in Custom-houses.

Shipments of munitions of war will be permitted to cross the border into Mexican custom-houses controlled by the insurgents as long as they are bona fide and not directly consigned to the insurgent representatives.

If they are sent to dealers in arms and war materials the United States government has no legal authority for interfering with their shipment as long as they go through the regular and ordinary channels of commerce.

It is of great importance to the revolutionists as it will give them a legitimate source of supply of arms and ammunition, and they will not be forced to the necessity of relying upon smuggled arms and ammunition.

## BANKER IS DROWNED.

Fight to Kill Self with Revolver Ends in Death.

Hackensack, N. J., May 12.—Robert Le-couver, First National Bank president at Westwood, N. J., and the proprietor of the Le-couver Press, at 51 Vesey street, New York, committed suicide early this morning by jumping into the well on his beautiful estate at Westwood and drowning in three feet of water.

The early morning tragedy was the culmination of an exciting night at Le-couver's residence, where only the tireless vigilance of his wife prevented the bank president from shooting himself with his revolver. For several hours Mrs. Le-couver watched her husband and fought with him at intervals in her efforts to prevent self-destruction.

## RESCUED AT SEA, PASSENGERS TAKE DRY LAND ROUTE

Few Continue Trip After Arrival at Norfolk.

### WATER IS IN DISFAVOR

Blame for Accident Not Placed by Officers.

Gash Torn in Steamer's Side by Collision—Passengers Safely Transferred from Sinking Ship—Wireless Call Brings Aid—Message Reaches Office—Railroad Preferred Following Exciting Adventure.

New York, May 12.—The Ward liner Merida, due at this port to-day from Vera Cruz, Progreso, and Havana, was rammed amidships at 12:30 o'clock this morning by the fruiter Admiral Farragut, of the American Mail Steamship Line, in a heavy fog, fifty-five miles east of Cape Charles.

After the transfer of the passengers and the crew of the Merida to the Admiral Farragut, the Ward liner foundered in thirty-five fathoms, beyond the hope of salvage and too deep to interfere with the progress of the deepest ships.

All of the Merida's passengers, 202 in first and second cabins and steerage, were saved. One woman, was injured, but not severely.

#### WIRELESS USED.

The story of the disaster was told by wireless long before the passengers, officers, and crew of the Merida arrived in Norfolk to-night aboard the Old Dominion steamship Hamilton, which took them from the Admiral Farragut.

The first wireless message came from Herbert Benson, the United Wireless operator aboard the Merida, and was received at the office of the Ward Line in Wall street just after it happened.

The next message told of the sinking at 5:55 a. m. of the Merida. Meanwhile the Farragut was sending cries for assistance to all points within the radius of her wireless. One of the first ships to catch the instant demand for help was the Old Dominion liner Hamilton. Capt. Boaz, bound from this port to Old Point Comfort and Newport News.

When Capt. Boaz was within three hours of the Admiral Farragut he learned that all the passengers were off the Merida and that the wounded Ward liner had disappeared.

The Farragut's captain, A. Yder, reported to the Hamilton that his ship had been damaged and that he could not safely convey the passengers to port.

When the Hamilton got within megaphone distance of the Farragut she found the battle ship Iowa alongside. The Iowa had heard the Farragut's call for assistance and had turned from her course from Philadelphia to Annapolis.

#### Iowa Aids Transfer.

Commander B. F. Hutchinson, of the Iowa, ordered boats lowered and the bluejackets transferred the Merida's passengers, officers, and crew to the Hamilton. The sea was calm and the transfer was without accident.

The Hamilton arrived in Norfolk at 7:30 o'clock to-night.

The Ward line's agents at Norfolk gave the passengers and crew the choice of coming to this city by the Princess Anne, which left Norfolk at 5 o'clock to-night or staying overnight in hotels and taking an early morning train to New York. Only a small portion of the passengers decided to take ship.

All agreed that the fog was very thick and that both ships were groping on their respective courses, the Admiral Farragut steering for Port Antonio, Jamaica, and the Merida heading for this port.

The question of blame must await the reports of Capt. Yder and Capt. Robertson.

All reports agree in saying that the bow of the Farragut plowed a hole in the side of the Merida big enough to run a small tug through, and that the gash extended far below the water line. Mattresses forced into the rent were effective for a time in keeping out the water.

It was seen after the Farragut withdrew from the side of the Merida that the latter would be able to float only a few hours at the limit, and the lifeboats were swung out and all hands made ready to abandon ship.

Pending the arrival of the Hamilton and the battle ship Iowa, it was decided to put all hands aboard the crippled Farragut, whose condition reported that she was not mortally hurt. The transfer was made in the boats of both liners.

Three naval vessels were ordered to the scene of the wreck as soon as information was received at the Navy Department of the collision between the Admiral Farragut and the Merida.

The battle ship Iowa, which was en route from Philadelphia to Annapolis, was about thirty miles from the accident, and was immediately intercepted by wireless and sent to the assistance of the injured vessels. Rear Admiral William A. Marshall, commandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard, also sent the torpedo boats Stringham and Bailey from Lynnhaven Bay to the scene of the accident.

Ocean Steamships, New York, May 12.—Arrived: Annapolis, from New York; Yonkers, from New York; Solid: Medicine for Annapolis.

## WAR SECRETARY RESIGNS; STIMSON NAMED SUCCESSOR

Dickinson's Personal Affairs Need His Attention.

### ACCEPTANCE BY TAFT

No Politics Figured in Retirement from Cabinet.

Anxious to Devote Time to Coal Business in Tennessee, Official Leaves Administration Voluntarily and Not Because of Mexican Situation, According to White House Advisers—Appointed by Roosevelt.

Jacob McGavock Dickinson has resigned from the Cabinet as Secretary of War. Henry Lewis Stimson, of New York, candidate for governor in the last campaign, has been appointed to succeed him.

President Taft made it known last night that there are no political considerations in the resignation of Secretary Dickinson, nor does it result from any friction between the President and the Secretary.

#### DEMAND ATTENTION.

Secretary Dickinson resigned because his personal affairs are in such condition that they demand his personal attention. So urgent was this call upon him that President Taft felt bound to accept the resignation at once.

Secretary Dickinson will retire from office as soon as it is possible for Mr. Stimson to leave his affairs in New York and assume his duties in Washington. President Taft will confer with Mr. Stimson on this question when he is in New York to-morrow. It is expected Mr. Stimson will enter office before the end of next week.

Most of Secretary Dickinson's private means is at the present time invested in a coal mining company of Tennessee, now in the hands of a receiver. Besides, the Secretary, his brother-in-law and several other members of his family have invested a large portion of their money in this company, and the condition of its affairs at this time is such that it will require a strong man to straighten them out and save anything from the wreckage.

The Secretary has told the President that he is anxious for this reason to leave Washington at the earliest moment and devote his time to his business affairs in Tennessee.

Reports have frequently been printed that Secretary Dickinson would sooner or later find it necessary for him to resign from the Taft Cabinet because of his politics. He is a free trade Democrat, open and avowed. It was stated at the White House last night that the Secretary of having enjoyed the privilege of reporting that he felt the resignation of his Democratic Cabinet officer to be necessary because of the approaching campaign.

#### Letter from Dickinson.

Secretary Dickinson tendered his resignation on May 12, which was accepted by the President on May 8. Here are the letters:

"Dear Mr. President: As my affairs have recently so changed as to require my personal attention in Tennessee, I herewith tender my resignation as Secretary of War, to take effect as soon as may be compatible with the public interest. I have enjoyed the privilege of being associated with you, and my colleagues of the Cabinet, in the discussion of so many great questions affecting the welfare of our country, and I am very sincerely,

"J. M. DICKINSON."

#### Acceptance by Taft.

"My Dear Secretary Dickinson: I have your letter of resignation, and am very sorry that the personal considerations, as you have explained them at length to me, leave me no alternative and require me to accept it. Since you wrote it you have signified to me that if I thought your leaving the War Department would embarrass me in view of conditions in Mexico, you would request to be allowed to sacrifice your personal interests and continue in office. While I fully appreciate the high sense of duty that prompts your offer, I am glad to say that recent developments indicate that no crisis is likely to arise making your withdrawal now any more of an embarrassment than at a later date, or justifying my asking for such a sacrifice.

"In consenting to a severance of our official relations I wish to tell you how satisfactory your administration of your great department has been. It involved the care and control of the army, the government of the Philippines and Porto Rico, the construction of the Panama Canal, and, incidentally, the government of the Canal Zone. In every way your work has been admirable and entitles you to the gratitude of your countrymen.

"Personally, I wish to thank you for what you have done, and for your invariable sense of loyalty to the administration, and to express my deep regret that our delightful intimacy growing out of our official family relation is to end. I sincerely hope that you may be able to achieve success in the important personal business that now claims your attention."

#### Continued on Page 2, Column 4.

1240 Harper's Ferry, Charlestown, and Winchester and return, Sunday, May 14. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Special train leaves Union Station 8 a. m.

## SUCCEEDS SECRETARY DICKINSON.



HENRY L. STIMSON, Former New York District Attorney, Who Becomes Member of Cabinet.

## FIVE HUNDRED MEN FIGHT FOREST FIRE

Sent by Pennsylvania to Brandywine, Md., Where Line of Flame Extends a Distance of Five Miles.

Every available man in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company between Baltimore and Washington was sent on special trains yesterday down the Pope's Creek branch from Bowie, Md., to battle against a forest fire of huge proportions in the vicinity of Brandywine. Lining either side of the railroad track for a distance of five miles was a continuous flame, which destroyed thousands of railroad ties, and in some instances cars were burned. Five hundred men were sent to Brandywine last night by the Pennsylvania to assist the farmers in extinguishing the forest fire. It was announced from Bowie last night that another forest fire had broken out about two miles north of the village and was burning with intense fury. Farmers were making every effort to check the flames, which appeared to be gaining headway. Several farm houses are in constant danger of destruction. Just before 6 o'clock last evening a Pennsylvania train left Bowie for Brandywine, with 150 men from Baltimore. For several years the Pennsylvania has been supplied with timber for ties cut from the woods through which the Pope's Creek line runs. These ties are stockpiled along the railroad track, and when the fires of the forest reached them they soon fell prey to the tongues of flame that shot across the track.

## WOULD OFFER IMMUNITY TO CLERKS WHO TESTIFY

Deeming that reassurance applied in time may serve to bring out facts from government employees in the forthcoming investigations of the executive departments that otherwise would not see the light, Representative Bathrick, of Ohio, yesterday introduced a resolution which guarantees immunity to every clerk who may be called upon to testify during these investigations.

Citing in his resolution the allegation that employees of the government who have in the past disclosed information respecting the matters under investigation have been dismissed or branded as unworthy of trust, Mr. Bathrick proposes

that due protection shall be afforded clerks, and that if any employee is superseded or reduced in efficiency rating as the result of his disclosures to a committee of Congress, an affidavit on his part shall result in a special investigation to determine the facts. If it shall be found that "persecution" has followed the disclosures of the clerk, the superior officer of the employee shall be declared in contempt of the Senate or House and punished accordingly.

"Fear and dread of loss of employment should not be permitted to prevent the exposure of irregularities of fraud in any department," said Representative Bathrick in a statement concerning his resolution.

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## DIVISION PLANNED OF PEABODY FUND

Trust for Educational Work to Come to End.

Special to The Washington Herald. New York, May 12.—After fourteen years beyond the time when they might have done so, a committee of the Peabody Educational Fund to-day unanimously decided to report to the trustees that the principal of the fund should now be distributed and the trusteeship closed. The fund continued forty-four years. Two years subsequent to the civil war, George A. Peabody, the Massachusetts philanthropist, gave \$2,000,000 to advance education, three-quarters of the money to be spent in the South. Of this fund \$1,500,000 was in State bonds of Mississippi and Florida, afterward repudiated.

Joseph H. Choate was chairman of the fund's committee meeting. Richard Olney, of Massachusetts; Bishop Lawrence, of Georgia; Ex-Gov. Askeel, of North Carolina, and Judge Henderson and Mr. Somerville, of Alabama, being the other members.

Hoke Smith said: "We shall report to the Trustees in November. Until then we do not consider that the details of our recommendation as to distribution should be made to the public."

The trustees were willing to intimate \$600,000 to advance education, three-quarters of the money to be spent in the South. Of this fund \$1,500,000 was in State bonds of Mississippi and Florida, afterward repudiated.

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## CITIZENS FAVOR BILL AS GIVING REPRESENTATION

District Needs Closer Touch in Congress.

### WOULD PUSH INTERESTS

Fuller Recognition of Residents Is Vigorously Advocated.

W. D. Hoover Points Out Principle of Responsibility to People—R. H. Harper Indorses Direct Primary Idea—W. McK. Clayton Urges Movement and W. F. Gude Sees Crying Need of Suffrage Here.

Advocates of the Bristow bill to legalize direct primaries in the District of Columbia believe that it will lead to a fuller recognition of the residents of Washington as citizens of the United States without infringing upon the integrity of the municipal form of government by Commissioners.

#### DIRECT TOUCH NEEDED.

But the pharos of the question of representation that has been touched most keenly by opening up the question is that of giving the District better and more direct touch with Congress.

W. D. Hoover, president of the National Savings and Trust Company, is one of a number who believe the District should have a Representative in the House and one in the Senate.

"It is not so much a question of how these Representatives be chosen, so long as we have them, and they are in some way responsible to the people whose interests they stand for," said Mr. Hoover. "It is the principle of responsibility to the people that will insure adequate and painstaking effort to promote the interests of the large number of property-holding and taxpaying citizens."

R. H. Harper, president of the District National Bank, has been for so long time an active promoter of direct primary ideas that he is glad to see the movement being urged within the District.

"Back in 1897, when I was a representative at the State convention at Roanoke," said Mr. Harper, "I introduced a lengthy resolution providing for direct primaries throughout the State on the same day for the selection of State delegates and State nominations, and in entire Congressional districts on the same day for Congressional nominations."

"I believe firmly in the principle of direct primaries, and my wish to see the principle adopted not only in the District of Columbia but throughout the whole country is stronger if anything than it ever was. The only point of difference between this man and the one that I have always advocated is in the Congressional districts. The primaries there should be held through the Congressional district on the same day, but not in every Congressional district throughout the State on the same day. There are good enough and obvious enough reasons for this provision, which I am satisfied would be beneficial in the way of promoting clean politics."

Opposes Any Change. W. B. Hibbs represents a class of citizens who are quite content to leave things as they are, without and change in the form of government.

"I am absolutely opposed," said Mr. Hibbs, "to any change in the government of the city of Washington. We have the best form of government on earth, and there is no reason to tamper with it. I will not say that we are always the best governed city on earth, but I do say we have the best form of municipal government that exists anywhere to-day. If the right choice of Commissioners is always made, we can have a government that in freedom, safety, fairness, and equity cannot be excelled in any city anywhere. I am unqualifiedly in favor of letting well enough alone."

On the other hand there is a large body of citizens who think as W. McK. Clayton expresses himself. Mr. Clayton has been secretary of the Democratic central committee for several years, and as such has had wide and intimate knowledge of the working out of primaries in the District.

#### Would Recognize Rights.

"This experience in the way primaries now work out in the District of Columbia, and as conducted there by the Democratic party," said Mr. Clayton, "cause me to give unhesitating endorsement of any movement that will tend to recognize the rights of the United States. While there may be a few things in any bill that can be proposed to give this to our citizens, I would not be disposed to quibble about the minor points. It is the big, broad principle of representation and responsibility that I would be most anxious to see recognized, and anything that I can do or say to promote this desired change, I shall be only too willing to do."

"I think it is a travesty on our boasted freedom and liberty and the rights of the citizenry of the National Capital of what we are pleased to call the freest country in the world should be shut out from a share in the election of the National representatives."

#### Advocated by Gude.

A direct representation in Congress has a strong advocate in W. F. Gude. "It is a matter of indifference, I think," said Mr. Gude, "how we get representation, whether by suffrage or appointment, but the crying need of the District is that we should have a representative."

#### Continued on Page 2, Column 2.

\$1.25 to Baltimore and Return. Baltimore and Annapolis via Pennsylvania Railroad. Ticket good to return on Sunday night. All regular trains except the Congressional train.

Murder Charge Made, Following Death of Negro. Louisville, May 12.—Eighteen of the mob of Livermore citizens that lynched a negro from an upright on the stage of the Livermore Opera House, and then strangled his body with bullets fired from the orchestra circle, several weeks ago, were indicted to-day on charges of murder by the grand jury.

Double Cause Mistake in Identification in Fire. London, May 12.—The real hero of the fire at the Empire Theater, in Edinburgh, was not Lafayette, but a stage hand named Richards, a double of the famous actor.

A body was found to-day underneath the ruins of the stage which was identified as that of Lafayette. Two diamond rings which he wore on the night of the tragedy were still on his fingers.

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